

THE LORD'S DAY

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2023

10 O'clock A.M.

Sermon Notes

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFLECTION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 9:6,7

**For to us a Child is born; to us a Son is given;
And the government shall be upon His shoulder,**

*And His name shall be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*

**Of the increase of his government and of peace
There will be no end.**

*On the throne of David and over His kingdom, to
establish it and to uphold it with justice and
with righteousness from the time forth and forevermore.*

The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will do this.

*HYMN OF ADORATION

O Come, O Come Immanuel

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*PRAYER OF ADORATION

and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

(The account of the angel’s visitation to Mary announcing she is with child, vs. 26-38. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, vs. 39-45. Mary’s song, vs. 46-56)

The Birth of John the Baptist

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” ⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

WCF, Christ the Mediator

The Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, being truly and eternally God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time had come, take upon himself man's nature, with all its essential properties and common frailties, yet without sin. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary and of her substance. In this way, two whole natures, the divine and the human, perfect and distinct, were inseparably joined together in one person without being changed, mixed, or confused. This person is truly God and truly man, yet one Christ, the only mediator between God and man.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Ephesians 4,5

Heavenly Father, have mercy on us, for our sins are many, and we are in danger of grieving your Holy Spirit. No corrupting talk should come from our mouths, yet we discourage other believers with our words. We are prone to bitterness, wrath, and clamor. We even slander those, we claim to love in Christ. By your grace, enable us to forgive each other as you have forgiven us in Christ. Enable us to walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Ephesians 1:3,4,7,8

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.
The Father chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world.
That we should be holy and blameless before Him.
In Christ we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses.
According to the riches of His grace.

PASTORAL PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEVOTION

What Child Is This
Ushers come forward

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